

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W
-----123676 160622Z /10

R 151902Z MAR 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2682
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0130

FROM US REP MBFR

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR: CONTINGENCY DATA EXCHANGE PRESS GUIDANCE

1. ON MARCH 15, THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED THAT, IN THE EVENT OF
A LEAK BY EAST OR WEST OF THE NEWS THAT A NEW DATA EXCHANGE HAS
TAKEN PLACE OR IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE, WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES
COULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS AS NEEDED:

A. AS IS KNOWN, DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON
FOR SOME TIME REGARDING THE EXCHANGE OF MORE DETAILED
DATA FOR THE PURPOSE OF HELPING TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES
OF THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN FIGURES
ON WARSAW PACT MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE REDUCTION AREA.

B. BOTH SIDES HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE CATEGORIES OF NUMBERS
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WHICH MIGHT BE EXCHANGED AT THIS POINT.

C. AN EXCHANGE IS EXPECTED SOON (OR HAS RECENTLY TAKEN PLACE).

D. WE CANNOT GIVE DETAILS BUT WE ARE PLEASED THAT IT HAS BEEN
POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS DATA EXCHANGE ON THE BASIS
OF CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY BOTH SIDES.

E. WE DO NOT THINK IT IS USEFUL TO ARGUE ABOUT WHICH SIDE SHOULD GET MORE CREDIT FOR THIS MOVE. IT IS, AS NOTED, BASED ON A COMBINATION OF PROPOSALS MADE BY BOTH SIDES.

2. IN INFORMAL SESSION MARCH 15, WHEN NEW DATA WAS EXCHANGED, SOVIET REP ASKED THAT BOTH THE FACT AND THE CONTENT OF THE EXCHANGE BE TREATED WITH SPECIAL CONFIDENCE. WESTERN REPS AGREED. IT IS TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE WEST NOT TO BREACH CONFIDENTIALITY BECAUSE FURTHER QUESTIONING OF THE EAST ABOUT EASTERN DATA WILL BE NECESSARY AND WESTERN LEAKS WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET THE EAST TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. RESOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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